

October 29, 1958

Dr. David Perkins  
Department of Biology  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Dave:

At my own behest the Genetics Study Section of the National Institutes of Health has decided to hold its next meeting on the Stanford campus. This will be over the weekend of January 24-25, 1959. The Study Section enjoys the opportunity of meeting at various points throughout the country from time to time as a means of making closer contact with the geneticists whose work it tries to help support. In addition the prospect of meeting in California rather than Washington in mid-winter was not unattractive. I might add that this timing also proves to be very convenient for me in relation to my plans for moving; at present we are thinking of moving officially on the 1st of February and in fact possibly some few days before then.

I'm very happy that the Study Section went along with this move as I am anxious that the other members of the Section get a good first hand opportunity to see the way this aspect of biology is going to develop on the Stanford campus. Quite true, the visit will be a little early as far as our own program is concerned.

In connection with the visit I'd like to ask you just one small favor. Probably most of the members of the Section will arrive on campus the evening of January 22nd or some time on the day of the 23rd. We certainly would not like anything like a formal inspection tour but I have been asked to verify which of the people in whom the Section might be interested would be likely to be on campus on Friday the 24th to allow for informal visits by individual members or groups of members of the Study Section. If any of our colleagues find that certain times of the day are likely to be most convenient for such visits I would appreciate knowing that too.

The people who come most directly to mind for this inquiry would be Charlie and yourself, of course, and the people working with you; Cliff Grobstein and Victor Twitty, and whomever else you might think appropriate in the Biology Department. I would also add Danforth and Center in Anatomy and Goldstein or Aranow in Pharmacology. Who else would you think of?

I think it might also be appropriate if you could call Henry Kaplan at Radiology in San Francisco to ask him for his own suggestions and to inquire if there is any possibility that he might be available preferably on the Stanford campus or if not perhaps even in San Francisco itself to talk about some of the work of his group to members of the Study Section. If he can't come himself perhaps one of his close associates might think of doing this.

Another very interesting suggestion that comes to mind would be Pattee and perhaps some of the other people over in Biophysics, as I know I would be interested myself in a demonstration of the X-ray fluoro microscope which was mentioned in Science yesterday.

I'm sure that you have other suggestions based on your local knowledge of the campus and hope you will use your own judgment freely in making this inquiry. All that's asked for is the question whether a visit on the indicated Friday by one or more members of the Study Section would be convenient. It is hard to be sure exactly how many such visits will actually take place and some anticipation of it and clarification as to the most convenient times would still be helpful.

I need hardly tell you how much we are looking forward to coming out West.

With best regards as ever,

Joshua Lederberg

JL/jp

P.S. The members of the Genetics Study Section are: Walter Burdette, Louis Baron, Earl Green, W. Heston, Walter Nickerson, Charles Rick, and Wilson Stone. The Executive Secretary is Katherine Wilson.